

Peacham School Community Meeting  
Sunday may 20, 2007  
3:00 – 5:00 PM

UNAPPROVED

**Present:** School Board members-Wynne Browne, Jean Dedam; Community Members - Neal Gombas, Dave Stauffer, Julie Hansen, Marceya Roy, Judy Chypre, Debra Vogini, Cathy Browne  
Wynne opened the meeting at 3:10.

**Minutes:** Did not have last month's minutes at the meeting so will review at the next meeting.

**Post meeting pot luck meals:** consensus was to drop them except for one after the final meeting.

**Report Formats:** Agenda item for the next meeting. What elements should be included in each committee's report. Judy Chypre requested that a summary of each committee's report be included in the Town Report in March and that the summary be approved by the committee. An alternative would be to have the reports available at town meeting. Each work group should discuss what they think should be in the reports at their next meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

**School As Is with Variations** – Cathy Browne- Debra Vogini met with Ed Stretch of Gilman Housing about affordable housing. Ed suggested inviting George Mathias from the Home Ownership Center to speak on the issue. It was suggested that the planning commission and other groups in town be invited as well.

Town offices located at school will require space and safety concerns with the added traffic, be resolved.

A committee could be formed to search for funds and coordinate activities. Look for energy efficiencies.

Create niche programming to attract tuition students (laptops, personal learning plans), charge reduced rates.

**School Choice** – They are gathering data. The report format should include governance issues and worst/best case scenarios and budgets. Dave asked what the current tuition rate per child is for private versus public schools now. Private schools cannot charge more than the statewide average where public schools can include more of their costs. Social impacts to the town need to be included with each option also. Concern was expressed about Kirby's experience with people moving into town to take advantage of the choice option and the impact on their budget. People move into Peacham for the Academy choice now.

**Expansion Committee** – Marceya Roy reported on a meeting with the teachers to talk about the expansion potential, space needs, teaching requirements and extra curriculum/sports requirements. Space needs may include use of the log cabin and/or addition of a walkway or solarium onto the existing building. Partnership with other area schools for sports, music, art, tech ed, language instruction will be explored. Walden is currently getting tech ed. from Danville for its 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades.

Costs – including 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade would bring up the census. Marceya suggested that the first year of transition should include continued choice. Personal learning plans could be used as the basis for curriculum development especially during the transition period. Will need one additional teacher.

Plan to survey parents of current K-6 students to gauge interest in having 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade at the school. It was suggested that parents of prior students be surveyed as well. Dave questioned whether other area schools would always be able to accept our students if their census goes up.

**Merger Committee** Jean read Jane’s report. Danville School Board is interested in discussing any and all options with Peacham. Karl Johnson from Monroe’s School Board called Jane expressing an interest from Monroe in merger options. Meetings to follow up with Danville and Monroe are to be scheduled, tentatively on June 12 with Danville.

**Data Committee** – Wynne handed out data packets. Becky had updated prior charts for school census

Tuitions for the last 5 years

High School/Middle School tuitions and enrollment

Announced tuitions

Kirby census/tuition costs for 5 years

Housing data from the Center for Rural Studies at UVM for the As Is committee

Obtain school reports from the Dept. of Education

Transfer data for students

Determine which tuition rates to use – allowable rates seem most standardized.

Wynne said she is working with John Bacon to identify the basic elements with associated costs of services from CCSU. Questions arose about the functions of the CCSU and the possibility of operating without them.

Judy said we need someone from Winhall to come and talk about their experience in privatizing.

**Next steps:** Ideas for speakers should be forwarded to Jo Anne

Determine elements to be included in reports at the June meeting.

Karen asked for a time frame – to be decided at the next meeting also.

Judy asked what process the board planned to use to make a decision – Wynne and Jean said that the board had not decided yet.

Next meeting: June 24 from 3-5 PM.

Meeting adjourned about 5:00

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Dedam